

WALTER E. DURHAM

FEBRUARY 21, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. DONOHUE, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 1065]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1065) for the relief of Walter E. Durham, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

Page 1, line 8, after the word "States" insert "for additional detention benefits".

Page 2, line 1, after the word "and" insert "for additional payments under".

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to pay Walter E. Durham the sum of \$9,746.67 in full settlement of his claims against the United States for additional compensation computed on the basis of a contract of employment between him and a contractor with the United States which was to be effective January 1, 1942, and which called for wages of \$250 per month, subsistence of \$70 per month, and a bonus of \$45 per month; and as computed in accordance with the provisions of the act entitled "An Act to provide benefits for the injury, disability, death or enemy detention of employees of contractors with the United States and for other purposes," approved December 2, 1942, as amended (42 U. S. C. secs. 1701-1717), and section 4 (a) of the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended (50 App. U. S. C. sec. 2003 (a)).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Mr. Durham was employed by the Pacific Naval Air Bases Contractors at Guam on May 27, 1941. He continued in that employment until he was captured by the Japanese on December 10, 1941. At the time of his capture he was employed at a salary of \$150 a month as a stock clerk. However, in November of 1941 he had been

promised a promotion to the position of transportation supervisor with a base pay of \$250 plus subsistence per month, and a monthly bonus. This promotion was to have been effective on January 1, 1942. However, as has been noted, Mr. Durham was captured by the Japanese when Guam was taken by them. It was therefore impossible for Mr. Durham to receive the position and promotion which had been promised him. Further it appears that he had in fact been performing the functions of that position at a lower rate of pay. Mr. Durham was interned by the Japanese from December 10, 1941, to September 8, 1945. He was returned to the United States on October 10, 1945. As evidenced by the documents which have been appended to this report, during his internment Mr. Durham rendered outstanding service to his fellow internees by using his medical knowledge gained as a Navy pharmacist's mate to treat the sick and injured among those interned with him.

Only the fact of Mr. Durham's capture some 20 days prior to the effective date of his promotion resulted in the recovery under the applicable provisions of law being limited to that based upon a salary of \$150 per month rather than the larger figure. The committee feels that it is appropriate to consider that Mr. Durham's promotion had in fact been given him, but that the effective date had been deferred. The committee finds that this is a proper case in which to grant relief, and therefore recommends the favorable consideration of the bill.

In its report to this committee on the bill the United States Department of Labor made the following comment on the original language of the bill:

* * * However, if the bill is otherwise favorably considered, attention should be directed to the fact that this bill, in its present form, probably precludes the right of the claimant to further medical benefits or compensation for disability.

The committee wishes to make it clear that the purpose of this bill is merely to grant relief to Mr. Durham in regard to benefits based upon the increased compensation he would have received in the position to which he was promoted effective as of January 1, 1942. In order to make it clear that there is no purpose of precluding Mr. Durham from exercising any rights he might have as to continuing benefits such as those referred to in the report of the Department of Labor, the bill has been amended by the addition of language which is intended to make it clear that the adjustment to be effected by the bill relates only to the additional benefits described in this report.

FUTATABI INTERNMENT CAMP,
Kobe, Japan, August 28, 1945.

To Whom It May Concern:

Before leaving this camp for repatriation to our homes, I wish to present Mr. Walter E. Durham, of Agana, Guam, with this voluntary testimonial of appreciation for his services with the Pacific Naval Base contractors during the 9 months duration of the Guam projects.

Mr. Durham served with the company from the start of the job until he was captured by the Japanese Army on December 10, 1941.

He served as confidential clerk to the field superintendent and handled important work of various kinds. He assisted in the hiring and training of native help, made local purchases, handled personnel and goods transportation and in general was a very handy man. He is also a high-class first-aid man and proved invaluable in several emergency accident situations.

All of this work was done by Mr. Durham cheerfully and satisfactorily. In fact, his services were so highly thought of that in a job reorganization that was taking place January 1, 1942, Mr. Durham was in line for a promotion to transportation supervisor, a highly responsible position, in our organization.

I can unhesitatingly recommend Mr. Durham for any position in the above lines and am sure of his proving reliable and efficient.

ROBERT R. HUBBARD,
*Engineers' Club, Seattle, Wash., U. S. A., Field and General Superintendent,
Pacific Naval Air Base Contractors, Guam projects.*

To Whom It May Concern:

This is written in recognition of and appreciation for the services rendered his fellow internees by Mr. W. E. Durham, civilian internee from Guam, who was for 10 years a pharmacist's mate, U. S. N.

The civilian internees and prisoners captured at Guam, M. I., December 1941, were interned in the Catholic Church Building at Agana, Guam, until January 10, 1942. On this date, in company with the sailors and marines and Navy doctors and nurses also captured at Guam, they were placed aboard the *Argentina Maru*, and taken to Japan. These prisoners were taken ashore at Todotsu, Shikoku, Japan, and marched to the war prisoner's camp at Zentsuji, Shikoku, the evening of January 15, 1942. After spending 1 week at this military camp, the civilian prisoners were again removed the evening of January 22, 1942, and taken aboard the *Kogane Maru* and shipped to Kobe, Honshu, Japan.

At Kobe, the civilians were divided into 2 groups, 1 totaling 74 men was housed in the Seaman's Mission Building in the warehouse district (Mr. Durham was with this group), while the other group totaling 57 men was housed in the residential district at Butterfield and Swire's.

Arriving thus out of the tropics, clad only in their tropical clothing and an overcoat furnished by the Japanese Army, these men began their internment. The cold winter weather and the crowded living conditions, the changeover from American food to Japanese prisoner's fare, and the shock of being suddenly and without warning removed from civilian life on an American insular possession and being subsequently interned deep within the enemy's territory had it's effect, and many and various ailments began to develop among the men.

At first it was possible (after the proper persuasion, etc.) to have the guards take the men out to a general (free) hospital for treatment and prescription. At this time no doctor was assigned to the camp, hence all cases had to be treated in the house or taken to the hospital. Mr. Durham, working with the camp leaders, secured medicines and supplies by purchase and supplication for the use of the camp members. He was also instrumental in organizing and scheduling doctor's and hospital trips for the men needing treatment. In addition, each morning at 9 o'clock a sick call was held, at which time Mr. Durham treated all those applying for attention.

In October 1942, the civilian internees were again divided, and 3 camps were constituted * * * 57 men at Butterfield and Swire's, 50 men at the Mark's House, and some 60-odd men at the Canadian Academy. Of this latter group, 24 were Guam men and the balance, made up of British, Canadian, Guatemalan, Belgian, Dutch, etc. Mr. Durham was at this time interned at the Canadian Academy. Here, as before, he continued to give treatments, administer medicines, and to schedule hospital trips and medical attention for those of the men needing such services. At this camp (and about this time or shortly afterward at the two other camps) a doctor was assigned to give treatment and to make periodic calls at the camps to consult with those internees needing medical treatment and advice. The frequency of these calls was, at this time, about once a week or once every 2 weeks * * * a fair average would be some 2 to 3 calls a month from the doctor so assigned.

It should be stated, however, that this doctor was not always readily available, although efforts were usually made to call him in cases of emergency. But to demonstrate the situation in which the internees found themselves. In April 1944, one internee, Griffiths, an old man, died suddenly at the Canadian Academy before the doctor could reach him. Mr. Durham bore the responsibility of being the medical "officer" in charge. A Japanese doctor (not assigned to the camp) hastily summoned stated that Mr. Durham had done everything possible at the time to save the man's life. The regular camp doctor, calling some half hour later, corroborated this fact. As before stated, Mr. Griffiths was an old man; had long suffered from a heart ailment. A similar case happened in January 1945, when an internee, Kopp, died suddenly from heart trouble, although Mr.

Durham did everything possible to save his life. At this time, no doctor was available, although one had been assigned to the camp.

In May 1944, the 3 internment camps mentioned above were combined in 1, the new location being some 3 miles out of Kobe, in the mountains at a former school called Futatabi. This camp consisted of the above-mentioned camp members, in addition to some 15 men subsequently brought up from Nagasaki. These new men were of various nationalities—British, Dutch, Belgian, and Canadians. The total membership of this Futatabi camp was 173 men.

Here again Mr. Durham continued his good work. A sick-call was held regularly each morning at which time treatment was administered, hypodermic injections given, medicines dispensed. In addition, in the morning and at night, whenever there were any sick camp members who were confined to their beds, Mr. Durham made personal calls on such members and cared for their needs. It should be mentioned that from May 1944, the doctor's visits at the camp have decreased in frequency until they scarcely average 1 per month. The distance from town (some 3 miles, plus) was no doubt a large factor for this inattention.

Because of the paucity of calls from the doctor and the time intervening between them, it became increasingly impossible to wait for such a call in order to receive treatment or medical advice. It also became impossible to receive sufficient attention from the doctor to allow the men's illnesses to be diagnosed by him. Hence, once more, Mr. Durham came through, had forced upon his shoulders the weighty responsibility of having to make diagnoses of these cases, and having to at the same time decide whether the case should be recommended as one deserving hospitalization. It will be of interest to note that these diagnoses have been verified in the hospital cases by the physicians subsequently charged with caring for them.

In November 1944, through the good offices of the International Red Cross, several cases of medicines, vitamin pills, and medical equipment were given to the camp with Mr. Durham being charged with the responsibility of seeing to it that they were properly used. It is not an overstatement to say that during the trying and difficult winter of 1944-45, when food was short and many of the members were suffering from malnutrition and associated ills, that it was in a large measure due to the diligence and conscientiousness of Mr. Durham in administering the medicines and vitamins to the camp members that we were able to emerge from this period in comparatively good shape. During this time there were three deaths among camp members—Haller, Pourbey, and Kopp. The two former had been hospitalized upon the recommendation of Mr. Durham, and passed away in the International Hospital, while the aforementioned Mr. Kopp died suddenly at the camp. All three of these men were old men. All three had suffered for years from chronic ailments.

Approximately 1 year after his internment began, while he was interned at the Canadian Academy, Mr. Durham began to keep a record of the cases treated by him. At the time of this writing (May 1945) he has given his attention to more than 8,800 cases. In this record is kept the names of the men treated, their complaints, and what was done to aid them. The field of activity ranged from piles and ear-irrigations and hypodermic shots, through chronic asthma cases, boils, carbuncles, shingles, and emergency stitching of wounds.

It is no exaggeration to state that the success which Mr. Durham had in dealing with these varied cases was largely due to his wide experience gained with the United States Navy, plus his careful study of the data supplied with the new medicines which were sent by the International Red Cross. These factors and his resolution to always do the best he was capable of, account for his success in giving aid to his sick patients. These 173 men were in a spot—a bad one—this he knew. He accepted without flinching the challenge of the situation he alone bore the tremendous responsibility.

As the air-raids became intensified, the men were given a choice of going to a tunnel nearby (air-raid shelter) or remaining inside the building. Mr. Durham, for reasons known only to himself, elected to stay in his "sick-bay" inside the building, ready to give first-aid or treatment to anyone suffering an accident or disaster.

Thus, because we, his fellow internees are truly grateful and appreciative of what he has done for us, this has been written for the record. All that we have herein mentioned has been done in a spirit of helpfulness. He has given freely of his time, labor, skill, and knowledge, without thought of compensation or remuneration. He has never refused a patient nor a call. Therefore, unbeknown to him, we have undertaken to record a few of his services and a bit of our gratefulness.

In appreciation therefore, and in our varying capacities, as a matter of permanent record, we have hereunto affixed our signatures.

Camp Commandant.
 LEON O. HARRIS,
Camp Leader.
 ARTHUR E. WOODRUFF,
Assistant Camp Leader.

I, Ugo Alfonso Casal, Chief of the Section for Foreign Interests of the Swiss Consulate at Kobe, Japan, certify the above signatures to be those of Messrs. Leon Harris, leader, and Arthur E. Woodruff, assistant leader, of the Hyogo-Ken Internment Camp, at Futatabi near Kobe, both personally known to me, and both of whom have had charge of the Futatabi Camp for a long period.

While doing so, I take great pleasure in adding my own sincere appreciation of the work which Mr. W. E. Durham indefatigably did for the benefit of his cointernees, whose welfare circumstances would otherwise have rendered far more precarious. I fully concur with the sentiments expressed by the leaders and countersigned by the present Camp Commandant, Mr. Moritani.

Kobe, Japan, 20th August 1945.

[SEAL]

U. A. CASAL,
Swiss Consulate, Kobe,
Section for Foreign Interests.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
 Washington, May 24, 1954.

HON. CHAUNCEY W. REED,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington D. C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN REED: This is in response to your request for my comments regarding H. R. 3671, a bill for the relief of Walter E. Durham.

The bill proposes a payment of \$9,746.67 to Walter E. Durham in full satisfaction of all claims against the United States for benefits under the War Hazards Act of December 2, 1942, and section 4 (a) of the War Claims Act of 1948. The proposed payment apparently is intended as an increased benefit for detention based on an alleged contract of employment between the claimant and a Government contractor calling for an increase in wages to \$250 per month, subsistence at \$70 per month, and bonus of \$45 per month to be effective January 1, 1942.

The records of the Bureau of Employees' Compensation of this Department show that Walter E. Durham entered the employ of the Pacific Naval Air Bases Contractors at Guam on May 27, 1941. Prior to such employment he was residing at Guam and engaged in the operation of a small business of his own. His employment by the Pacific Naval Air Bases Contractors was as a materiel clerk and his wage is reported at \$150 per month. Since he was hired locally he was not entitled to subsistence from the contractor and he was not eligible for a bonus under a contractual arrangement between the contractor and employees recruited by the contractor in the United States and transported to Guam. Mr. Durham was captured by the Japanese at Guam on December 10, 1941, and was held prisoner until September 8, 1945, and returned to the United States on October 10, 1945.

Under the statutory provisions referred to in the bill, Mr. Durham was entitled to receive a sum equal to the wages which would have been payable to him under his contract of employment if it had been in effect during the entire period of his capture and detention, less any payment made to him for such period or to his dependents for his account. The Bureau, pursuant to such authority, found that the wage of Mr. Durham at the time he was captured was \$150 per month and that he was entitled to receive such wage for the period of his detention extending from December 10, 1941, to October 10, 1945, in the total amount of \$6,905. Such amount was paid from the employees' compensation fund of which \$1,612.56 was paid to dependents of the employee for support prior to his repatriation.

Subsequent to his repatriation, Mr. Durham submitted a statement from the superintendent of the contractors at Guam which stated that a reorganization of the staff on the project was contemplated about January 1, 1942, and in this connection it was proposed to change Mr. Durham's status and increase his salary to \$250 per month. However, this reorganization was not consummated as

Guam was taken by the enemy on December 10, 1941. It is clear from the record that Mr. Durham at the time of his capture was not serving under a contract of employment at a wage of \$250 per month and as a locally hired employee he was not entitled to an allowance for subsistence or a wage bonus. He has received the full payment to which he is entitled by law for wages during detention.

In addition to detention benefits, Mr. Durham has been paid compensation for disability in the amount of \$250.01 and the sum of \$273.65 has been expended for medical services for him. He is eligible to receive further medical care if needed for conditions arising out of his internment and compensation for disability if he should again become disabled from internment injury.

Since the bill, if enacted, would be discriminatory and would establish a precedent for special awards in other cases, I am unable to recommend a favorable report on this bill. However, if the bill is otherwise favorably considered, attention should be directed to the fact that this bill, in its present form, probably precludes the right of the claimant to further medical benefits or compensation for disability.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that it has no objection to the submission of this report.

Yours very truly,

ARTHUR LARSON,
Acting Secretary of Labor.

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,
Washington, July 28, 1947.

MR. WALTER E. DURHAM,
*1823 East Nevada Street,
El Paso, Texas.*

DEAR MR. DURHAM: I have noted with great pleasure a report of the exceptionally meritorious services which you rendered your country while at the Hyogo-Ken Internment Camp at Futatabi, near Kobe, Japan, during World War II.

In December 1941, you were captured, along with other civilian and military personnel at Guam, and were removed to Japan and interned in the above-named camp. Adequate medical attention was not provided for by the Japanese and having at one time been a pharmacist's mate in the United States Navy, you volunteered your services in treating and caring for your incapacitated and debilitated fellow internees, rendering first aid during air raids, diagnosing and treating many types of illnesses, and actually performing minor surgery on emergency occasions. Your untiring devotion to your fellowmen and your efficient service gained for you the admiration and respect of the civilian camp authorities and of all the internees therein and reflect great credit upon yourself and the naval service in which you received your early training.

I am proud to extend to you the profound appreciation of the Navy Department.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN,
Acting Secretary of the Navy.

CITATION FOR THE MEDAL OF FREEDOM

Mr. Walter E. Durham, American citizen, rendered meritorious service to fellow prisoners of war at Camp Futatabi, Kobe, Japan, from January 1942 to September 1945. Upon his arrival there, Mr. Durham, who had at one time been a pharmacist's mate in the United States Navy, found that there was no competent medical personnel available. He at once volunteered to render necessary medical treatment to the prisoners. Although greatly handicapped by inadequate medicines and supplies, his outstanding efforts and untiring work did much to alleviate the misery of the sick and saved many lives. He became the symbol of hope and life for the prisoners and won the respect of the Japanese camp authorities. Through his exemplary conduct and devotion to his fellow prisoners, Mr. Durham made a distinct contribution to the morale and welfare of the prisoners in Kobe, Japan.

[SEAL]

SANTA MONICA, CALIF., *January 2, 1953.*
Congressman RONALD L. JACKSON,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SIR: Here is the story concerning my case. I was in the United States Navy Medical Department from February 1929 to February 1939. I went to

Guam in 1935 and received a honorable discharge in 1939. I had a nice store which was doing very well.

In May 1941, I went to work for the Contractors as a classified laborer without a contract. The Governor was doing everything to hold down the pay of the men hired on the island. Mr. R. R. Hubbard, the general field superintendent was my boss. I worked out of the field office doing town purchasing, handling all transportation and hiring the men working under me. I was getting 54 cents an hour and was still classified as a labor maximum by the Government but was classified as a clerk by the contractors. I had been doing transportation foreman's work some time before the outbreak of the war. In November, Mr. Hubbard promised me a promotion to transportation supervisor with a base pay of \$250 plus subsistence and regular bonus. This was to take effect January 1, 1942, but the outbreak of the war prevented it from taking effect. I was already doing the work. When we got back in 1945, Mr. Hubbard tried to get the contractors to approve of the contract that he had promised me but since I didn't have a written contract at the outbreak of the war they wouldn't approve it. I was finally paid a salary of \$150 a month as stock clerk.

I was captured by the Japanese at 4:20 a. m. December 10, 1941. I ran into the Japanese Marines as they invaded the island. That was the only time that I was manhandled. I was stripped, hit over the head with a pistol, jumped on and scared to death.

We all were taken to Japan, January 10, 1942. All of the time that I was a prisoner I was doing all in my power to help my fellow men. Many a time I was up for over 24 hours working on sick men. The letter that you will read will explain to a big extent the work that I did. The only difference in the letter and my final report to the Army rescue team, is that my medical records showed a little over 12,800 treatments. The complete medical records were turned over to the Army, September 8, 1945.

During all the time that I was trying to help out my fellowmen, I never thought about being paid for what little I did for them.

Since I feel that I haven't been treated fairly by the contractors, and the War Claims Commission wouldn't let me have the \$2 a day subsistence and also because my business losses of stock and property were around \$11,000 and I only received \$5,280 less lawyer fees, I feel and hope that something can be done for me.

Enclosed you will find certain documents in relation to my case. Please read them carefully and weigh the value of the contents and then use your own judgment whatever you decide to do one way or another. I will greatly appreciate whatever you can do for me.

I want to thank you for taking so much interest in my case as I realize that you have many more important cases than mine every day and that you are extremely busy in your own work.

I also want to congratulate you on your reelection. You were so busy at the time that I talked to you that I didn't want to waste any of your valuable time.

I wish you all the luck in the world in the years to come. Keep up the wonderful work on the un-American activities. We are all for you 100 percent and always will be.

Sincerely yours,

WALTER E. DURHAM.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., May 9, 1956.

Vice Adm. ROSS T. MCINTIRE,
Surgeon General, United States Navy,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR ADMIRAL MCINTIRE: I wish to bring to your attention a matter in which I am deeply interested. It concerns my constituent, Mr. Walter Edward Durham, of El Paso, Tex., a retired hospital corpsman of the United States Navy. He was a prisoner of the Japanese Government from December 10, 1941, until released by the Eighth Army on September 9, 1945. During that time Mr. Durham volunteered his services and knowledge for the benefit of his fellow internees. There is enclosed for your information a letter from Mr. Hubert W. Flaherty, of New York, who was interned with Mr. Durham at Kobe, Japan, which I am sure will give you first-hand information concerning his deeds.

Recently I had a letter from Mrs. Ernest E. Odell, mother of Mr. Durham, enclosing a photostatic copy of testimonial documents given her son by his fellow prisoners in the camp and asking that it be made a part of his Navy record. I

have a letter from Comdr. H. V. Bird, dated April 5, advising that her request would be carried out.

It would seem that some appropriate notice should be taken by the Navy Department of this man's heroic deeds and since they were of a medical nature, I bring the matter to your attention in the hope that a citation, or medal, appropriate to the acts performed, may be awarded this fine man. He has performed valuable service to humanity. I shall appreciate hearing from you with the return of the enclosure when it has served your purpose.

With personal regard, I am

Very sincerely,

R. E. THOMASON.

GRAND LODGE BENEVOLENT AND
PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS,
ELKS WAR COMMISSION,
New York 16, N. Y.

Hon. R. E. THOMASON,
*House of Representatives,
New Office Building, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SIR: Pursuant to our conversation of yesterday regarding Mr. Walter E. Durham of El Paso, Tex., whom I understand is a constituent of yours, I beg to submit the following information:

Mr. Durham was a retired hospital corpsman, United States Navy, regular service, located in business on the Island of Guam at the time of the Japanese occupation, December 10, 1941. He was taken as a prisoner-of-war to Japan with the other military prisoners and white American residents of Guam and confined there until released by the Eighth Army, September 9, 1945.

Mr. Durham was the only prisoner with medical experience available to the Interne Camp at Kobe, Japan. As the visits of the Japanese doctor were at least 30 days apart, he volunteered his services and knowledge for the assistance of his fellow prisoners. It must be understood that during the early period, in fact until 1944, drugs and medicines were almost unattainable at these prisoners' camps from outside sources.

To my own knowledge, Mr. Durham performed 2 operations—1. cutting an abscess from a fellow internee's intestines, putting in the drain, etc. and saving the man's life, and other instances of amputations necessary because of bomb wounds. During the various epidemics, as the amebic dysentery, Japanese eye disease, and typhoid, Mr. Durham gave at times 70 to 80 treatments per day, using considerable skill so that the results were very satisfactory. He also gave all hypodermic injections of the various serums furnished by the Japanese in the cases of these diseases.

I know that this record was sent to you by his fellow prisoners in Japan and a photostatic copy is now on file with his record in the Bureau of Personnel, Navy Department. It was received and filed by Commander Bird, USN, who was acting at that time as liaison officer.

Mr. Durham is now in Beaumont Hospital, undergoing an operation, at El Paso, Tex.

I am not related to this boy in any way and have not seen him since he returned to the United States.

Anything that I can do to further your interest by affidavits, etc., please call on me. I have talked the matter over with Mr. James R. Nicholson, chairman of the Elks War Commission, and I know he feels the same as I do. I would suggest that you contact the Navy Department and secure a copy of the file, including this particular record, and submit it with any further recommendations that you may make to the proper party.

Very truly yours,

HUBERT W. FLAHERTY.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., *January 14, 1947.*
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES WESTERN PACIFIC,
*Recovered Personnel Division,
APO 707, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.*

GENTLEMEN: During my time spent in Kobe, Japan, I was a very sick man, without doctor and without medicine.

I would like to give you the name of Walter E. Durham, whose address is 341 North Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier, Calif. This man was a prisoner of war and I feel that if it was not for his assistance and help, I would not have lived. He had

a sort of hospital service and seemed to be pretty well informed and he helped any number of us, but for myself I feel he helped to a large extent to save my life—he was one of the most kindly men that I ever had the pleasure of meeting. He was there 3 years and 9 months. It was difficult to even do as much as he did with the little he had to work with in medicine, etc.

I regret the delay in replying to your letter of August 22, but I was away in the country.

Yours very truly,

JOHN R. PETROVICH.

SANTA MONICA, CALIF., January 6, 1952.

Reference: File No. EA-922162.

Mr. C. R. MIDDLETON,
United States Employees' Compensation Commission,
New York, N. Y.

DEAR SIR: In May 1941 I went to work for the P. N. A. B. C. on Guam as a material clerk. At the time the Government wouldn't let me sign a contract because I would then receive regular States wages. On December 1, Mr. R. R. Hubbard promised me a raise to \$250 a month and a regular contract as supervisor of transportation. I had been in charge of transportation for some time before the outbreak of the war.

I have been recognized as a regular contractor but I understand that I am not entitled to subsistence or a bonus that the rest of the men have received. I tried to get the \$2 a day subsistence that Congress appropriated for civilians that were interned but it was turned down due to the fact that I was classified as an employee of the contractors.

I realize that 6 years have gone by since I arrived back in the United States but I have hopes that something can be done for me.

For your information I was camp medical officer and had a record of over 12,800 treatments when the war was over. I spent many an hour taking care of the internees and I am sure that if it hadn't been for my being there, some of them wouldn't be alive today. I received the Medal of Freedom from the Army and a letter of commendation from the Navy.

I am enclosing a letter that Mr. Hubbard sent to me and I think sent to you and Mr. Booth of the contractors. I may be wrong but I feel that I should be given a little more consideration than I have received. If not for being with the contractors then for all the time spent doing medical work while I was interned.

I hope that there is something that you can do for me.

Sincerely yours,

WALTER E. DURHAM.

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